

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 192566

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ETHIOPIA INTERVIEW WITH THE CISCO TWO--RANSOM OR
RELEASE?

THE AMERICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION HAS PURCHASED FOR US;
AND HAS ALSO GIVEN CONFIDENTIALLY TO EMBASSY BEIRUT A TAPED
INTERVIEW WITH THE CISCO TWO CONDUCTED BY SYRIAN STATE TELE-
VISION UNDER THE AEGIS OF THEIR CAPTORS, THE POPULAR LIBERA-
TION FRONT. THE ABDUCTED AMERICANS AVOIDED MOST OF THE
QUESTIONS PUT TO THEM, BUT:

--UNDER OBVIOUS PROMPTING STATED THAT KAGNEW'S MISSION
IS TO PROVIDE "SUPPORT FOR DIEGO GARCIA" AND FOR SUCH
STATE DEPARTMENT TRAVELLERS IN THE AREA AS "HENRY
KISSINGER."

IN OTHER CISCO DEVELOPMENTS:
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 192566

--PLF OFFICIALS TOLD THE INTERVIEWERS THAT THE PLF WILL
DEMAND RELEASE OF ERITREAN PRISONERS AND A RAN;OM PAY-
MENT FROM THE US.

--A LOCAL CISCO REPRESENTATIVE HAS TOLD CONSULATE GENERAL THAT HE HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH THE ELF AND THAT

HE BELIEVES THE TWO WILL BE RELEASED WITHOUT RANSOM IN THE SUDAN IN A FEW WEEKS TIME.

EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA SAYS THAT THE EVIDENCE NOW TENDS TO CONFIRM THAT THE TWO ARE BEING HELD BY THE PLF, AND NOT THE ELF AS EARLIER BELIEVED. THIS MEANS THAT THEIR RELEASE COULD BE A UNILATERAL PLF DECISION NOT REQUIRING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ELF. (SECRET) ADDIS ABABA 9772 (EXDIS) (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 10283, (CONFIDENTIAL) KHARTOUM 1878, 1887, 1888 (EXDIS), AND (CONFIDENTIAL) ASMARA 677 (EXDIS), 8/11.)

2. ROMANIA: IS MILITARY COOPERATION WITH US FEASIBLE?

AMBASSADOR BARNES RECOMMENDS THAT MILITARY COOPERATION WITH ROMANIA SHOULD REMAIN LARGELY LIMITED TO NON-LETHAL, COMMUNICATIONS AND SPACE-RELATED EQUIPMENT UNTIL WE UNDERSTAND MORE CLEARLY WHAT RELATIONSHIP ROMANIA WISHES TO HAVE WITH US, AND UNTIL WE HAVE MORE CAREFULLY ASSESSED THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON DETENTE, MBFR AND US/YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. HE BELIEVES THAT:

--CEAUSESCU HAS AN UNCANNY SENSE FOR HOW FAR HE CAN GO WITH MOSCOW, AND LIKELY HAS CONCLUDED THAT AN EXTREMELY LIMITED SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH US IS SUFFICIENTLY DEFENSIBLE IN IDEOLOGICAL AND MILITARY TERMS TO DEFLECT ANY POSSIBLE SOVIET THREAT OF RETALIATION.

--WHILE WE HAVE A VALID INTEREST IN AN INCREASINGLY INDEPENDENT ROMANIA, THIS NEED NOT TAKE THE FORM OF A MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP, WHICH MIGHT REINFORCE THE REPRESSIVE NATURE OF THE PRESENT REGIME. (CONFIDENTIAL) BUCHAREST 3852 (EXDIS), 8/13.)

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 192566

3. FRENCH SEEK US VIEWS ON FURTHER CYPRUS INITIATIVE

QUAI DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE ANDREANI TOLD EMBASSY PARI; THAT ITALIAN FOOTDRAGGING HAS HELPED HALT THE EC'S MODEST CYPRUS INITIATIVE. POINTING TO FRANCE'S SPECIAL ENTREE TO CARAMANLIS, ANDREANI SAID THAT IF THE SECRETARY STILL BELIEVES THAT AN EC NINE INITIATIVE COULD HELP, THE FRENCH WOULD BE WILLING TO PUSH ITS PARTNERS HARDER. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 20958 (LIMDIS), 8/13.)

4. EGYPT: GAMASY DENIES DISENGAGEMENT VIOLATIONS

IN RESPONSE TO A LOW-KEY QUERY BY AMBASSADOR EILTS CONCERNING POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY EAST OF THE CANAL IN

VIOLATION OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GAMASY DENIED THE ALLEGATIONS AND SAID THAT:

--WHAT THE US BELIEVED WERE FIVE SAM-6 SITES ARE ACTUALLY UNDERGROUND HOSPITAL INSTALLATIONS;

--THE CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS DURING THE UNEF CRISIS WERE ONLY ENGINEER TRAINING EXERCISES; AND

--ANY EGYPTIAN TROOP TRAINING EXERCISES EAST OF THE CANAL WERE CONDUCTED AGAINST HIS ORDERS.

GAMASY OFFERED PERSONALLY TO ESCORT AMBASSADOR EILTS AND HIS STAFF TO THE AREA TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THAT NO SAM-6 SITES EXIST. (SECRET) CAIRO 7990 (EXDIS), 8/13.)

5. AZORES INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT BEYOND THE POINT OF NO RETURN?

EMBASSY LISBON HAS LEARNED FROM A PONTA DELGADA DEPUTY TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY THAT THE AZORES LIBERATION FRONT (FLA) IS PLANNING ITS REVOLUTION FOR LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER.

--THE FLA RECOGNIZES A COUP AGAINST GONCALVES' GOVERNMENT
SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 192566

MENT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE AZORES TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION, BUT IT PLANS TO GO AHEAD EVEN IF ANTUNES IS IN POWER. (IT DOUBTS ANTUNES WILL TREAT AZORES' ASPIRATIONS MORE FAVORABLY THAN THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT.)

EMBASSY COMMENT: A COUP IN THE AZORES, WHICH NOW SEEMS LIKELY, WOULD EITHER PROVIDE GONCALVES AND THE LEFT IN PORTUGAL WITH AN EXCUSE TO CRACK DOWN ON ANTUNES AND HIS SUPPORTERS, OR, CONVERSELY, HAVE THE CATALYTIC EFFECT OF LEADING TO GONCALVES' OUSTER BY SHOWING THE FINAL BANKRUPTCY OF HIS POLICIES. SHOULD THE ANTUNES GROUP BE IN PLACE WHEN THE COUP TAKES PLACE, IT WOULD NOT DAMAGE HIS GOVERNMENT FATALLY BUT WOULD CERTAINLY PUT US IN A MOST DIFFICULT POSITION. (SECRET) LISBON 4634 (EXDIS), 8/13.)

6. COPCON OFFICERS OFFER PORTUGAL A RADICAL ALTERNATIVE

EMBASSY LISBON COMMENTS THAT THE COPCON RADICALS' AUGUST 13 PAPER CALLING FOR STRENGTHENING THE "DIRECT LINKS" BETWEEN THE AFM AND THE PEOPLE WILL DILUTE THE ANTUNES MANIFESTO AND FURTHER EXACERBATE DIVISIONS IN THE MILITARY AND THE AFM. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LISBON 4633, 8/13.)

7. NORTH VIETNAMESE RENEGE ON REPATRIATION OFFER

ON AUGUST 13 THE NORTH VIETNAMESE INFORMED EMBASSY PARIS THAT HANOI WOULD NOT FOLLOW THROUGH ON ITS AUGUST 9 OFFER TO REPATRIATE THE REMAINS OF THREE AMERICAN PILOTS. THE DRV CITED "UNFRIENDLY" AMERICAN POLICY AS THE REASON FOR THIS ABOUT FACE. EMBASSY PARIS COMMENTS THAT THE TIMING OF THE DRV ACTIONS SUGGESTS THEY WERE PLOYS CONNECTED WITH THE VIETNAMESE UN APPLICATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 20875 (EXDIS), 8/13.) KISSINGER

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